

# Sunday School

## Parenting Series Week Four | Discipline (Discipleship & Correction)

[BIG IDEA] We discipline our children because we love them.

### Discipline as Correction

*Prov. 13:24 | Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*

*Prov. 29:15 | The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.*

[Big Idea-1] Corrective discipline done in love is essential for children's growth and security.

**Hebrews 12:5-11** | <sup>5</sup> And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

<sup>7</sup> It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? <sup>8</sup> If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. <sup>9</sup> Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? <sup>10</sup> For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. <sup>11</sup> For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

[Discussion] How does it strike you that loving our kids requires us to correct them? What obstacles do parents encounter to this biblical vision? How can we encourage and come alongside one another in this task?

## Discipline as Discipleship

*Prov. 19:18 | Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.*

**[Big Idea-2]** Discipline must be restorative and patient.

### **Discipline Requires Humility**

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**Galatians 6:1-3** | Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. <sup>3</sup> For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

### **Discipline Grows Competence**

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**Galatians 6:4-6** | But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. <sup>5</sup> For each will have to bear his own load. <sup>6</sup> Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches.

### **Discipline Flourishes Over Time**

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**Galatians 6:7-10** | Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. <sup>9</sup> And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. <sup>10</sup> So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**[Discussion]** Where do you see parents commonly struggling with discipline as discipleship? In graciously insisting on God's standards (humility)? In helping kids grow in the skill of godly living (competence)? Or in patiently trusting the Lord to work? How can we help one another pursue discipline as discipleship at City Church?

**Extension Activity:** Take the Focus on the Family parenting assessment and discuss your assessment results with your spouse (if married) AND with a friend from City Church. What insights into your own parenting style did you gain? Where were you encouraged? Where are you seeking the Lord's help to grow?